transmitters of Orissa have started relaying the regional programes of Doordarshan Kendra, Cuttack via satellite with effect from 7-9-1991.

(b) and (c). Whereas a request has been received from the State Government of Orissa for live telecast of Car Festival of Lord Jagannath from Puri, the same has not been found feasible on policy and technical consideration. However, a special report on the festival would continue to be telecast on the same day in Doordarshan's National Network which could be viewed by a large number of viewers all over India.

Assistance for Naxalite Infested Blocks in Orissa

2858. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for Rs. 162 crores aid to finance the Special Area Development Programme for twelve naxalite infested blocks of Keraput and Ganjam districts of Orissa have been pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to speed-up sanction of funds for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). A proposal was received from the State Government of Orissa for financial assistance for an action plan for development of the naxalite affected areas of the State which was examined in consultation with the Planning Commission. The State Government was subsequently advised that the cost of implementing the Action Plan has to be met by the State Government from their normal Plan outlay as approved and finalised by the Planning Commission.

Construction of More Crematoriums in Delhi

2859. SHRI JEEVAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present electric crematorium in Delhi is in bad shape;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve its condition;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct more such crematoriums in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be constructed along with the details of the crematoriums in existence;

(e) whether the crematorium ground near Kamal Cinema in South Delhi, New Delhi also needs improvement; and

(f) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Efficient and Proper Service by MTNL

2860. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked MTNL to explain the reasons for rendering poor service to the consumers non-realisation of large sums of money pending against the subscribers; wrong and excess billing to the customers; to bring about improvement in the prevalent unsatisfactory state of affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by MTNL thereon; and

(d) how it is proposed to be ensured that the MTNL renders effective, efficient and proper service to the customers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. The performance of MTNL is generally satisfactory. The quality of service rendered is continuously monitored through periodic reviews.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Telecom Commission through various directives and circulars has been emphasising on all the field units including MTNL to provide effective, proper and efficient service to the consumers and increase the customers' satisfaction. The field units and MTNL have taken various steps in this regard, i.e. introduction of latest technology, upgradation of external plant and increasing the efficiency of STD services and provide better customers' services, computerisation of various services etc.

Akashwani Kendras in Karnataka

2861. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Akashvani Kendras in Karnataka at present, capacity-wise and location-wise;

(b) the total population of the area being benefited by their coverage;

(c) the number of Akashvani Centres out of them preparing and broadcasting their own programes; and

(d) the number of Kendras broadcasting the commercial service of Vividh Bharati?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRUA VYAS): (a) Eight Radio Stations are presently functioning in the State of Karnataka. The details of the radio stations are given in the annexure attached statement.

(b) 95% of the population of the State receives radio coverage.

(c) All the eight radio stations produce the programmes and broadcast them.

(d) The Radio stations located at Bangalore and Dharwad broadcast commercial services of Vividh Bharati.

STATMENT

	Location	*Capacity of the Transmitter*
1.	Bangalore	200 KW MW 1 KW MW
2.	Bhadrawathi	20 KW MW
3.	Chitradurg	6 KW FM
4.	Dharwad	200 KW MW 1 KW MW (Vividh Bharati/ Commercial)